

SUPPORTING THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESOLUTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 135, the House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution. This Resolution forms a commission within the House of Representatives to assist emerging democracies around the world. As the standard-bearer for a modern democratic nation, it is only fitting that Congress lend its expertise to all countries attempting to follow our example.

In the previous decade, Congress formed a task force to provide equipment and technical assistance to emerging democracies in Eastern and Central Europe. The results of that task force, known as the "Frost-Solomon Task Force," can be seen in the strengthening of the democratic institutions in these countries. The recent elections in Ukraine are a perfect example of how democracy is beginning to take hold in these nations. One of the hallmarks of a truly democratic nation is the smooth transition of power from one political party to another. While democracy eventually prevailed in Ukraine, the political turmoil during its elections serves as a reminder of how new and fragile these democracies are. It is crucial that we, as a nation, continue to support all countries in their progress towards maintaining a stable democracy.

The establishment of a commission to lend assistance to these emerging democracies is an important and common-sense action Congress can take to support and foster the global spread of democracy. This commission will lend experience and expertise to nations around the world. It will further allow members and staff of parliaments of selected countries to visit the House of Representatives and its support agencies in order to gain first hand knowledge. This commission is a valuable and cost-effective diplomatic tool our nation can employ to assist in spreading the freedom of democracy around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the formation of a commission to assist emerging democracies. I urge my colleagues' support for this important legislation.

RECOGNITION OF BATON ROUGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL AS A WINNER OF THE KENNEDY CENTER CREATIVE TICKET NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued educational institution—Baton Rouge Magnet High School—a 2003–04 school year Winner of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award. This school is an institution that combines academic excellence with tradition, achieving excellence in the arts.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has recognized five schools as recipients for the 2003–04 award. The Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award recognizes schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of the education of their students.

In addition to their recognition of excellence in the Performing Arts by the Kennedy Center, Baton Rouge Magnet High School held its Blue Ribbon award ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2003. The Blue Ribbon Schools Programs honors public and private K–12 schools which are academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. BRMHS is one of only two public high schools, and five total schools in Louisiana, and one of 248 nationally recognized as Blue Ribbon schools. It is the second time Baton Rouge Magnet High has been recognized with the honor. It is an award colleges look favorably in when reviewing students' resumes.

Thank you, Baton Rouge Magnet High School for your many years of dedication to quality education, arts programs and your outstanding representation of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and their historic achievements.

For more than 35 years, FLOC has represented the guest workers who labor in our fields and farms bringing food to our tables. They are striving to achieve the American dream, a good-paying job in a safe workplace and the ability to provide for their families. Something that everyone in America can understand.

Under the leadership of FLOC's president, Baldemar Velasquez, the organization has achieved historic gains—including the first labor agreement in U.S. history to cover guest workers. Other significant achievements include increasing workers wages, improving worker housing, and protection against harmful pesticides. FLOC's actions will provide a safer working environment for its members and a better product for the consumer.

Today, FLOC will open an office in Monterrey, Mexico, it's first outside the U.S. The office will help oversee the recruitment and transportation of guest workers. All of us have heard the nightmarish stories of coyotes smuggling workers across the border only to have the workers trapped in de-facto indentured servitude or perish in the unsafe crossing. FLOC has worked to bring workers to the U.S. legally, informing them of their rights as guest workers.

Without FLOC's assistance, so many workers would fall through the cracks. Today I celebrate FLOC's accomplishments and success. Their legacy is greater than the agreements signed. Their legacy is a workforce that is paid a living wage and laboring in a safe environment. Their legacy is hope.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAVID CABALLERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero for undertaking a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Commissioner Caballero has followed in the footsteps of his father, who was once a long-serving Atascosa Constable, in seeking an elected position of leadership. After serving his first term, his tireless devotion to ensuring that Atascosa County continues to develop economically, creating more jobs for the constituents he serves, led him to pursue and win term of service as County Commissioner.

Most importantly, Commissioner Caballero has continued to hold the values of community, faith and family in the highest regard. Nothing exemplifies this more than his committed participation with the Pleasanton Little League, St. Andrews Catholic Church of Pleasanton, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of Leming, and the Verdi Community Center.

He has spearheaded and now hosts an Annual Easter Egg Hunt that serves as an excellent opportunity to draw the entire community of families together in his precinct. Commissioner Caballero most deserves recognition for choosing to be an agent for real change, focusing on making government smarter and serving his constituency while saving his County money.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of the dedication of Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORA DUNAIAANS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Flora Dunaiaans. For many years, Flora has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Flora instantly recognize her enthusiasm and passion for helping others, especially on behalf of the Armenian American community and the arts.

Born and raised in Pasadena, Flora Jane Calusdian married George Dunaiaans in 1958 and they had 2 daughters, Gigi and Suzie. In 1968 the Dunaiaans formed their own business, Western Medical Supply, Inc., where Flora is currently the Vice President and Secretary.

Flora is devoted to her church and community. For over 40 years, Flora has been active at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, serving as Trustee and member